

TERMS OF PUBLICATION

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Democratic Patriotism vs. Democratic Treason.

SPEECH OF HON. HENDRICK B. WRIGHT, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

In reply to Mr. Vallandigham, on Peace Resolutions offered by the latter gentleman. Delivered in the House of Representatives, January 11, 1863.

MR. SPEAKER: I would not have participated in the discussion of my resolutions to-day, my health is so feeble, but feeling that I will not have another opportunity of presenting my views and opinions which I have attempted partially to embody in the pending propositions, I feel constrained to claim the consideration of the House at this time.

I am, Mr. Speaker, a peace man, but I am not a peace man in that sense to be established upon the dismembered fragments of a broken and destroyed Union. I am a peace man, if peace can be obtained with rebels who are striking at the vitals of the Republic, upon terms that shall be alike honorable to the patriotism and courage of the North.

With these men from the bogs and fens of Ireland and Scotland, he never would consent to re-union. But he casts his eye over the great Northwest, and entertains the hope that there he shall first see the sun of his righteousness arise.

Here you have the head of this bogus Confederacy laying out the line of policy. With these men from the bogs and fens of Ireland and Scotland, he never would consent to re-union. But he casts his eye over the great Northwest, and entertains the hope that there he shall first see the sun of his righteousness arise.

Resolved, That the separation between the Confederate States and the United States is final, and that the people of North Carolina will never consent to re-union at any time upon any terms.

That is the unanimous determination of the Legislature of North Carolina, that at no time and upon no terms will they reunite with us. Let me refer you, in the same connection, to a letter written on the 8th of December, 1862, by John Letcher, Governor of the State of Virginia.

It is not to be thought that the people of the Confederate States can again entertain a feeling of affection and respect for the Government of the United States. We have, therefore, separated from them; and now let it be understood that the separation is and ought to be final and irrevocable; that Virginia will, under no circumstances, entertain any proposition from any quarter which may have for its object a restoration or reconstruction of the late Union, on any terms or conditions whatever.

Mr. Vallandigham. I will answer the gentleman as I would have done if I had been allowed to conclude what I desired to say. What has produced and indicated the great reaction in Northern and Western sentiment? The ballot-box. The ballot-box is a weapon in the hands of men in the South, yet, as potent and just as secure; and through the agency of that ballot-box, after some time, when passion has cooled and reason resumed its sway, I expect to see a return of Union sentiment indicated, and whose ever in the so-called Confederate government or in the State governments stands in the way will be superseded by other men, just as those who would have waged this war upon a particular line of policy have been superseded through the ballot-box in the North and West.

Mr. Wainwright. I cannot conceive of what principle of reasoning the gentleman can satisfy himself that such a result could possibly, under any circumstances, be attained. Mr. Vallandigham. History and human nature. Mr. Dawns. The gentleman from Pennsylvania will allow me to ask the gentleman

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I have too good an opinion of the virtue and intelligence and patriotism of the people of the Northwest, to entertain for a moment, the idea that they would join hands with the miserable men engaged in their country's ruin, for any compromise or arrangement by which the Union is to be dismembered.

Mr. Vallandigham. I do not propose to lay down any arms at all. I said that long since. The laying down of arms must be a matter of common consent. But I would, if I had the power, reduce both armies down to a fair and reasonable peace establishment just as speedily as possible.

Mr. Wright. There is not one word of truth in the assertion the gentleman has made. Mr. Wright. I am very glad to hear that it is not true, for I have a better opinion of that State, being half a Jerseyman myself.

Mr. Wright. I am very glad to hear that it is not true, for I have a better opinion of that State, being half a Jerseyman myself. Mr. Wright. Perhaps North Carolina could do precisely what members upon this floor have done. On the 22d of July last they passed a resolution, and what have they done since? Perhaps North Carolina will do the same.

Mr. Wright. I am very glad to hear the members from New Jersey repudiate the idea that any peace committee has been appointed in that State, and sent South for the purpose of entertaining terms for a restoration of the Government. They have sustained their character as patriotic men.

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from Ohio, in connection with his remark that he expects that at some future day the ballot-box will work a revolution in the land, whether he proposes that we shall lay down our arms now and wait for that revolution.

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Gentlemen who entertain the idea that the recent elections are the result of a peace policy, will find out, if the army has to be disbanded, and if the Government is to be put in the hands of the people, because as God lives, there shall be a day of reckoning.

Mr. Vallandigham. I say "Amen" to that. Mr. Wright. The gentleman from Ohio says "Amen." God bless him! he ought to have a straight-jacket on him. [Laughter.] Mr. Vallandigham. Will the gentleman loan me the one he has been wearing for the last twenty months?

Mr. Wright. If the gentleman gets on the jacket he has been wearing, he will be a better Democratic jacket than he was ever wrapped up in during his whole life, and I am of the opinion he will feel so comfortable that he will wander in amazement that he was ever without one like it.

Mr. Wright. There is a reckoning in store for men on both sides of this question. There is a record made up of the men who sustain their country in the hour of its trial. I grant you that the cowboys of the revolution might have been very respectable people, if King George had but succeeded in maintaining his government over the colonies, but as he did not, they are now the names of cowboys and Tories has become somewhat disreputable.

Mr. Wright. I will tell the gentleman precisely what inference could, in my judgment, only be legitimately drawn from what he did say. Mr. Vallandigham. I cannot answer for the gentleman's inferences. I expressly argued against any such line, and I beg, if the gentleman refers to what I said, he will not misrepresent me.

Mr. Wright. I have a right to draw my own inferences; and it may be that the gentleman cannot show that they are very far wrong after all. At all events, the gentleman did say that it was impossible to mark out any boundary that shall serve the Mississippi river in its course to the Gulf.

Mr. Wright. I go upon the principle of the restoration of all the materials that formed this Union, without leaving out one State or one Territory. Mr. Vallandigham. I ask the gentleman to permit me to say, in spite of repeated corrections, the gentleman bases his arguments, all the way through, upon the assumption of a position on my part against the whole tenor of my speech.

found those institutions against eight million rebels, if they must yield, it must be set down not to their weakness, but to the degeneracy of the age; and it is time for us to repent in sorrow over our depravity and our cowardice.

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the breath of life, from Washington and his campers down? Would you make the Chesapeake bay and the Susquehanna the line? If you grant a peace or declare an armistice, depend upon it the establishment of a line will be the next step in the programme.

Then would arise that grand question, whether the Northwest would consent to unite her destinies with Pennsylvania, New York and New England.

New England has been made the subject of reproach. She has her Fenoull Hall, which, in the days of the Revolution, responded to the House of Burgesses. She has Bunker Hill and Lexington, and her history is united with all the glorious deeds of the past.

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